

September 15, 1999

the Wahatoya trailhead. This provision is both unnecessary and environmentally damaging. I hope the legislation will be amended to prevent such motorized use in this off-road segment.

With the introduction of H.R. 829, the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1999, and H.R. 898, I am heartened that we are having an active and thoughtful debate on wilderness. The majority of Coloradans believe that we must protect the forty-nine areas designated in my legislation as well as the Spanish Peaks. These areas constitute the backbone of our state's beauty and are essential in preserving our quality of life.

I commend my colleague for recognizing the importance of preserving lands like the Spanish Peaks Wilderness.

MARKING THE DAY THAT
NGAWANG CHOEPHEL WAS DE-
TAINED BY THE GOVERNMENT
OF CHINA IN 1995

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, today marks the day the Ngawang Choephel, a Tibetan musicology student at Middlebury College in Vermont, was detained by the Government of China four years ago. Ngawang Choephel studied musicology at Middlebury College on a Fulbright scholarship, and he was reported missing in 1995 while researching folk music in Tibet as part of his studies. It was more than a year before the Government of China acknowledged his arrest and imprisonment. He is currently serving an 18-year prison term in a remote area of China. His mother has not seen him in more than 3 years, and officials of the Government of China refuse to allow her to see him.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of China has never produced any evidence whatsoever that Ngawang Choephel engaged in any political or illegal activity. His imprisonment is part of the Government of China's brutal campaign of repression in Tibet, Choephel's home.

We must not let Ngawang Choephel be forgotten. We must continue to use all the means at our disposal to secure his release from an unjust imprisonment on trumped-up charges, and we must continue our efforts to keep human rights high on this country's foreign policy agenda. Until we see genuine progress on human rights in China, we should withhold the granting of Most Favored Nation trading status, and we should urge U.S. corporations to stop investing in China. This kind of effort helped topple apartheid in South Africa, and there is no reason to believe it would not have an effect on the human rights situation in China.

I urge my colleagues to hold the Government of China accountable for its human rights abuses, and hasten the day that Ngawang Choephel is free again.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, on September 9, 1999, I had to be in New York on official business and missed rollcall votes 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, and 404. I ask that the record reflects that had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 399, "aye" on rollcall vote 400, "nay" on rollcall vote 401, "aye" on rollcall vote 402—the motion to recommit the VA/HUD Appropriations, "nay" on rollcall vote 403, the FY 99 VA/HUD Appropriations bill, and "nay" on rollcall vote 404, the DC Appropriations Conference Report.

ACKNOWLEDGE THE EXCELLENT
WORK OF THE COOPERATIVE
CENTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, we, Representatives BARBARA LEE and STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES, note that this week, the 29th Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference will be taking place in Washington, D.C. An Issue Forum on Credit Unions is being held on September 16, 1999 to expand on the critical knowledge that "Credit Unions Bring Power and Wealth to the Community".

The impetus for, and the success of this Forum is largely the work of Ms. Carole Kennerly, Director of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union, and the team that she brought together to develop this issue forum.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the work done, and congratulate the members, employees, staff, board of directors and committee volunteers of the Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union (CCFCU) for its initiative in proposing and holding the Credit Union Issue Forum on September 16, 1999 and for bringing it to the attention of the 29th annual legislative conference of the Congressional Black Caucus in Washington, D.C.

Special appreciation is expressed to these individuals:

National Chairperson: Carole Kennerly, CCD, Director, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.

Coordinators:

IfeTayo, T.L. Bonner-Payne, Supervisory Committee, Cooperative Center, FCU.

Shirley A. Sheffield, Member, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.

Kim Medley, Member, Cooperative Center Federal Credit Union.

Joseph Villa, Former President/CEO, Allen Temple Baptist Church Federal Credit Union.

Barry Kane, V.P., Central Region Branches, Governmental Affairs, Patelco Credit Union.

Chris Kerecman, V.P., Federal Governmental Affairs, California Credit Union League.

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Odessa J. Woods-Mathews, member, Social Security Administration Federal Credit.

Dr. Gwendolyn Nurse-Wright, Paragon Federal Credit Union, Englewood Cliff, N.J.

Rosemary George, Communication Specialist, National Credit Union Administration.

Patricia Brownell, V.P., Credit Union Development, National Credit Union Foundation.

N. Sharifah Ibsan, graphic artist.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. DEBBIE STABENOW

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to explain my vote regarding H. Con. Res. 180, a resolution that expresses the sense of Congress that President Clinton should not have granted clemency to members of the FLAN. During my tenure in Congress, I have supported strong antiterrorism measures. I oppose the actions of the President and oppose the release of these prisoners. These acts of terrorism are obviously deplorable, and I am especially concerned about the lack of remorse shown by these prisoners. But I also oppose taking this vote before hearings are held and evidence is reviewed, given the fact that this resolution challenges the constitutional authority of the President. Thus, I have voted "present" on this bill.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL
POLLUTION PREVENTION WEEK

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 15, 1999

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize and support September 20–26 as National Pollution Prevention Week, which will be observed in the Second District of Ohio and throughout the Nation.

One of the most cost-effective ways to have clean streets, drinkable water, and breathable air is to focus on preventing pollution before it is created. Often, this is best achieved locally. The Greater Cincinnati Earth Coalition has done just that by forming a Regional Waste Reduction Group to focus on such things as energy conservation, plastics recycling, and generally reducing waste at the local level. The coalition is also actively involved in the implementation of a regional environmental education and information resource center.

Mr. Speaker, the objective to Pollution Prevention Week is to prevent pollution through education, cooperation, and voluntary recycling rather than through restrictive government regulations. It can encourage us to work for a cleaner environment while maintaining a competitive, prosperous business climate. These are goals we can all rally around, and I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing Pollution Prevention Week.